

L.A. supervisors vote to ban video sex games

LOS ANGELES (AP) — County supervisors have sided with a women's group and others outraged over sex-oriented home video games, voting to seek a county ban on three such games and urge state legislation.

Ignoring pleas from the American Civil Liberties Union that any prohibition against the games constitutes censorship, the Board of Supervisors voted 3-1 Tuesday in favor of a county ban.

The games, which will soon sell for \$49.95 each, carry the names: "Custer's Revenge," "Bachelor Party" and "Beat 'Em and Eat 'Em."

They drew the fury of the county Commission on the Status of Women, and groups representing American Indians protested the "Custer" game, which involve a cavalry officer clad only in boots and a hat and a naked Indian woman tied to a stake. Players score points by coupling the

soldier and the Indian maiden before a barrage of arrows wipe out the man.

"Members of our community are filled with horror and revulsion," women's commission president Betty Rosenstein told supervisors. "Next, let's have a game called 'Assassinate the President, a Jew, a black.' Why not? It's a free country."

The three games are manufactured by American Multiple Industries of suburban Northridge, which already faces legal action from Atari Inc. because the cartridges were designed for use in systems Atari produces. Atari strongly objects to the games.

The board instructed county attorneys to draw up an ordinance against sale of the games in unincorporated areas of the county.

Ramona Ripston, executive director of the Southern California ACLU, urged the board to permit the fight against the games to take place "in the marketplace."

"In times of growing intolerance such as these, the impulse to censor is contagious," Ms. Ripston wrote to the board. "It is crucial that you resist the disease at its first symptoms."

Stuart Krestin, president of the manufacturing firm, said the games were "created for the benefit of adults with an open mind, with a sense of humor, and they are left laughing."

He says the figures in the games are more cartoonlike than sexually explicit or pornographic.

Krestin, who complained he was not told the video ban item was on the board's agenda, argued that supervisors should see the games themselves before voting.

Supervisor Ed Edelman, the only attorney on the board and the only one casting a no vote, said his colleagues were heading into a "constitutional morass."